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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/822,929	04/13/2004	Joseph F. Bringley	87708SMR	4430

7590 06/01/2007
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EXAMINER

JACKSON, MONIQUE R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1773

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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06/01/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/822,929

Applicant(s)

BRINGLEY ET AL.

Examiner

Monique R. Jackson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 March 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 and 16-48 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11, 16-31 and 41-48 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 32-40 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The amendment filed 3/16/07 has been entered. Claims 12-15 have been canceled.

Claims 1-11 and 16-48 are pending in the application.

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-11, 16-31, and 41-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Engle et al. Engle et al teach a coating composition comprising a water-soluble or water-dispersible polymer (*reads upon permeable to aqueous medium*) and a sol comprising a colloidal dispersion of surface-modified, inorganic microparticles in liquid, wherein the inorganic microparticles have an average particle size in the range of from about 2nm to about 200nm (*inherently has a specific surface area as claimed*), most preferably about 20 to about 75nm, and include various metal oxides such as silica, alumina, titania, and zirconia as instantly claimed (Abstract; Col. 4, lines 12-24.) Engle et al teach that the microparticles are surface treated with silane coupling agents to produce microparticles with surface-attached or surface-bonded organic moieties wherein Engle et al specifically teach the use of N-(trimethoxysilylpropyl) ethylenediamine triacetic acid (Col. 8, lines 10-34; *reads upon the claimed metal-ion sequestrant formed by reacting with a metal alkoxide with an alpha amino carboxylate*

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functional group.) Engle et al also teach that the inorganic oxide sol is preferably provided in an amount of 1-70wt%, more preferably 5-40wt%, and that the polymer may include acrylic copolymers and aqueous latexes wherein the Examiner takes the position that the polymers taught by Engle et al would inherently have the claimed water permeability (Col. 8, lines 54-59; Examples.) Engle et al further teach applying the coating composition to a substrate to form a coated article (Abstract; Claim 28.) Though Engle et al do not specifically teach that the surface-modified particles or the coated article is utilized for sequestering target metal-ions, the Examiner takes the position that this limitation constitutes intended use of the composition and article and does not provide any additional structural or material limitations to differentiate it from the invention taught by Engle et al.

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Schiestel et al teach nanocomposite useful for separating components from liquid and gaseous media.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 32-40 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed 3/16/07 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Monique R. Jackson whose telephone number is 571-272-1508. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays-Thursdays, 8:00AM-4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carol Chaney can be reached on 571-272-1284. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Monique R. Jackson
Primary Examiner
Technology Center 1700
May 29, 2007